Welcome to teacher professional development for the Health Science Career Cluster®. This Career Cluster focuses on careers in therapeutic or diagnostic services, biotechnology research and development, pharmacology, medical microbiology, world health, and other related fields.

In this video, we will highlight the changes in the newly adopted Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills for Career and Technical Education, provide you with a rationale for those changes, and address the implications of those changes for teachers and students.

At the end of this module, you will be able to:
• Identify and describe the major changes made to the Health Science TEKS and associated courses
• Identify and explain key employability skills required by health sciences
• Locate resources that help students acquire and develop employability, academic, and technical knowledge and skills

What are the highlights of the revised CTE TEKS?
The Texas State Board of Education has revised and updated the knowledge and skills in all CTE courses. All CTE courses now include employability skills that focus on current industry requirements and expectations. Other changes include revised course titles, new courses, changes in available credit, and new ways to provide for the use of clinical and practicum courses. These changes are presented in detail throughout the module, and you will have an opportunity to check your knowledge about them at the end of the module.

What do teachers need to do to prepare students for the Health Science Career Cluster?
Teachers will guide students through relevant, real-world health science related experiences that develop student knowledge and expertise in modern health science practices. Involving industry experts can enhance delivery of this content. It is essential for teachers to understand how the student learning outcome reflects updated knowledge and skills statements presented in the TEKS.

How are courses in this Career Cluster relevant to students’ endorsements and graduation plans?
Students can include courses in the Health Science Career Cluster in their high school personal graduation plan and partially fulfill requirements for a program of study in this Career Cluster. Students who complete a coherent sequence of courses in the Health Science Career Cluster are able to receive the public services endorsement within the Foundation High School Program, with avenues for the performance acknowledgement and the distinguished level of achievement. These students will find a variety of opportunities in post-secondary education, the military, or directly to professional success in careers in health science.

This module will present useful information about the changes in the TEKS for the Health Science Career Cluster and how to update your program to reflect these changes. There are tremendous opportunities for economically rewarding and personally fulfilling careers in health science, and we want our students to be well prepared for them. Get ready to provide the best instruction to position your students for future success. Let’s get started!